

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 14, 15, 22, 24, and 26-33 have been canceled. Claim 34 has been amended so that it is of the same scope as the claims the Examiner says are allowable. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claims 1-12, 16-21, 23, 25, 34, 35, and 37-48 are pending and ready for further action on the merits.

Ex Parte Quayle

Applicants have complied with the Examiner's request to cancel withdrawn claims 14, 15, 22, 24, and 26-33. Claim 34 has been amended to fall within the scope of claim 1. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to also allow claim 34. Applicants believe that with this amendment that all remaining matters have been addressed and that the instantly pending claims are ready for allowance.

Thus, with the above remarks and amendments, Applicants believe that the claims, as they now stand, define patentable subject matter such that passage of the instant invention to allowance is warranted. A Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any questions remain regarding the above matters, please contact Applicant's representative, T. Benjamin Schroeder (Reg.

No. 50,990), in the Washington metropolitan area at the phone number listed below.

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for one (1) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application. The required fee of \$110.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

BS
MSW/TBS/mua

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000